

TRIBUTE TO MARTHA PUTNEY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and honor the life and legacy of Martha S. Putney, of Washington D.C. Mrs. Putney passed away December 11, 2008, at age 92.

Mrs. Putney was one of the first black women to serve in the Women's Army Corps during World War II. She is also a renowned historian and made strong contributions to the African American history literature.

Martha Settle was born in Norristown, Pa. She attended Howard University in Washington D.C. from which she earned a bachelor's degree in 1939 and a master's degree in history in 1940.

Martha encountered racial barriers when trying to start a teaching career. Unable to find a job, she entered the government's War Manpower Commission as a statistical clerk. In 1943 she was one of the first black women to join the Women's Army Corps, then less than a year old. In the Army, she experienced segregation and racial discrimination.

In 1946, Martha Putney left the women's Army Corps with the rank of first lieutenant. She married William M. Putney in 1948. She eventually began her dreamed teaching career after earning a doctorate in European history from the University of Pennsylvania in 1955. She became a history teacher at Bowie State College in Maryland, where she chaired the history and geography department until 1974. She then taught at Howard University in Washington D.C. until 1983.

Dr. Putney wrote "Black Sailors: Afro-American Merchant Seamen and Whalemans Prior to the Civil War," in 1987 and "When the Nation Was in Need: Blacks in the Women's Army Corps During World War II" in 1992. She also published a number of scholarly articles on African American history.

Madam Speaker, Mrs. Putney was an outstanding mother, soldier, teacher and author. I know the Members of the House will join me in expressing our sincere condolences to Mrs. Putney's son, William M. Putney Jr. On behalf of Congress, I thank Mrs. Putney for her great contributions to our nation and for her role in educating our children.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE
MR. ROBERT C. PETTY SR.**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the city of Mobile and indeed the entire state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Robert C. Petty Sr. was a musical legend in Mobile.

As the senior member of Mobile's Excelsior Band, Mr. Petty spent more than 50 years with the band, performing its Dixieland and conventional jazz in local Mardi Gras parades, at many Mobile weddings, and other special city events.

Anyone who knew Mr. Petty knew he loved playing the trombone. In addition to the Excelsior Band, which has marched the streets of downtown Mobile for over 100 years, he had been the lead trombonist with the E.B. Coleman Orchestra and the C.T. Jazz Ensemble. He was a longtime member and former president of the Musicians Federation Union as well as a veteran of the U.S. Army, where he also played in the band.

Mr. Petty was a 1937 graduate of Dunbar High School and received his Bachelor of Science degree in history from Morehouse College in 1950. While he was at Morehouse, he played the trombone and was awarded the Morehouse Service "M" in band for his outstanding performance. Mr. Petty was also a retiree of the U.S. Postal Service.

Madam Speaker, the Excelsior Band—and Mobile Mardi Gras—will not be the same, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering this talented man. Robert C. Petty Sr. will be deeply missed by his family—his wife of more than 50 years, Gloria; his seven children, Phyllis McArthur, Robert Petty Jr., Cynthia Taylor, Sharon Kuttner, Minda "Carol" Petty, Kenneth Petty, and Wendell Petty; his 14 grandchildren, and his two great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

HONORING MAJOR SHELIA FLOWERS FOR HER PROMOTION TO
LIEUTENANT COLONEL IN THE
UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a fellow Georgian, Major Shelia Flowers. Major Flowers hails from Robersonville, North Carolina. In 1987, she graduated from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. After graduating, she was commissioned a Second Lieutenant and attended the Adjutant General Officer Basic Course at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana.

Major Flowers has held numerous challenging positions throughout her 21 years of service in the Army Reserve. Her assignments as a drilling reservist have included: (1) Serving as a Civil Affairs Officer with the 407th Civil Affairs Company at Fort Snelling, Minnesota; (2) Platoon Leader with the 342nd Adjutant General Postal Company in Rome, Georgia; (3) and a Lanes Training Observer Controller with the 1st Battalion of the 347th Regiment located at Fort Gillem, Georgia. While in her last drilling assignment, Major Flowers earned a Master of Science degree in Conflict Resolution from Kennesaw State University.

In 2003, she was mobilized in support of Operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom and has spent the last six years of her career on active duty. Her parent command is the U.S. Army Reserve Command Headquarters at Ft. McPherson, Georgia. While mobilized to active duty, she served in the G-1 Directorate in support of Operation Noble Eagle as a Crisis

Action Team Leader, Equal Opportunity Officer, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program Manager, and Staff Action Officer.

Major Flowers was assigned to directly support Operation Enduring Freedom upon her transfer to OARDEC in November 2007. She has performed myriad tasks with ease including ARB Case Research Officer, CRO, Lead Case Research Officer, and Tribunal Recorder.

Major Flowers' professional military education includes the Adjutant General Officer Advance Course, Combined Arms and Services Staff School, and Command and General Staff College. She has applied to the Naval War College. Her military decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement Medal.

In keeping with one of the tenets that sustains the Reserve Component, Major Flowers serves her community as a member of a 100 year old service organization, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is an 18-year employee of Lockheed Martin Corporation. She is married to LTC Eric Flowers, who is currently deployed to the Horn of Africa, and they have one daughter.

Major Shelia Flowers is being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel today, and I would like to extend her my congratulations on the floor of the United States Congress and thank her for an exemplary record of service to our nation. The United States—and my home state of Georgia—are proud of Lieutenant Colonel Flowers' commendable professional competence, sound judgment, and total dedication to duty. She has reflected great credit upon herself and upholds the highest traditions of the United States Army Reserve. I wish Shelia and her husband all the best in their future endeavors, and I thank them once again for their leadership in serving our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 57, I was absent from the House. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ALA-
BAMA STATE SENATOR W.H.
"PAT" LINDSEY**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 13, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor Alabama State Senator W.H. "Pat" Lindsey and pay tribute to his memory.

Considered by many to be a living legend in Alabama politics, Sen. Lindsey was one of the most powerful members of the Alabama Senate. At the time of this death, he held the second longest active tenure in the state Senate.

Born in Meridian, Mississippi, Sen. Lindsey graduated from Choctaw County High School, where he was a five-year letterman in football,